

The Onyx Informer

Serving the people of the diaspora

Since 1972

October 29, 1999



Damon Dukes, a NU student, and NBA agent. (Photo courtesy of Damon Dukes)

Black, male, not a player

By Phil Kasiecki
Onyx Staff

Damon Dukes, a Northeastern student and New Jersey native achieved a longtime goal, when he became the youngest NBA certified agent at the age of 23 this summer. On August 25, 1999, he achieved a long time

goal when he became an NBA certified agent, but being 23 and an agent isn't the only thing about him that will stand out before long.

Dukes has long desired to be an attorney. He began studying criminal law at Northeastern, but found it boring. Having played sports his whole life, he eventually decided that sports law would be the area to get into.

Things start right at home for Dukes, especially with his father, Thomas Dukes. His father is the founder and President of Dukes & Dukes Associates, a financial services group. His father has been a role model and confidence builder for him over the years. Damon is now trying to bring to sports what his father has succeeded at, and doing so through his father's business. He became Vice President of Dukes & Dukes when he created a Sports Management division.

In getting to where he is today, Dukes gives credit to several people he has met since coming to Northeastern. At the Center for the Study of Sport in Society, he was the head researcher for the 1998 Racial Report Card, an analysis of the hiring practices of women and people of color in the NBA, NFL, MLB, and the NCAA and member institutions.

Dukes mentions Jose Masso and Richard Lapchick among those who helped him greatly. Through this, he had the chance to meet Randy Vataha and Robert Caporale of Game Plan LLC. He learned from both experiences just how interested he was in the sports world, and can't say enough good things about them.

"I met so many people through all of this. In the sports world, everybody knows everybody. The professionalism at Game Plan was unbelievable, and they really helped me a lot because of their experience."

Dukes said their help did not stop there, "when my application was sent to the certi-

fication committee, these four people had faith in me to write to the board so that they had to say yes."

Now he is ready to set himself apart in a highly competitive business. He is actively putting together brochures on prospective clients to summarize their qualifications for playing pro basketball. Two key things help drive him.

"People like professionalism and presentation, and it helps build a relationship with players." He also notes the importance of keeping up with the sport and honesty. "Some agents tell their clients unrealistic goals to get the player to sign with them. The best thing to do with a player is be honest and set realistic goals. And for that, you have to know what's going on, what teams situations are; research is the key." For Dukes, it is also important to establish a personal relationship with a player, an area where he feels he has an advantage because of his youth.

Dukes' first client is former NU basketball star Lonnie Harrell, who starred at Northeastern for two seasons after transferring from Georgetown University.

After finishing his career at Northeastern, Harrell was the USBL Rookie of the Year in the 1996 season and earned an invitation to training camp with the Orlando Magic. But he tore his Achilles heel in his first preseason game and was waived.

The road back for Harrell since then has been difficult. He never heard from his agent

See Dukes, page 2

The battle for Roxbury

By Byron Calamese
Onyx Staff

News Analysis--The equation is simple: two candidates, a district filled with reluctant constituents, and less than a week of campaigning before the 1999 Boston City Council elections.

As expected, voter turnout in Roxbury, and throughout the city of Boston, was low during last month's preliminary elections. However, despite the lack of interest, Chuck Turner and Tracy Lithcutt are battling to represent the community into the millennium.

With his "Bold, Bald, and Bright" campaign slogan, Turner hopes to strengthen community policing to ensure the safety of residents and provide additional training to law enforcement personnel to help in the fight against domestic violence. He would also like to see more minority representa-

tion within the police department and a civilian review board to ensure that the police department is held accountable for their actions.

"I think having a body who could oversee, and be on call for, situations where police may have overstepped boundaries is important," said Turner.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Turner graduated from Harvard University in 1963 before beginning a 33-year career as a community activist and campaign organizer.

During that span, he led a battle to stop construction on a proposed eight-lane highway through Boston neighborhoods; he helped establish a law in Boston requiring contractors to hire Boston workers of all races and genders; and he developed the Greater Roxbury Worker's Association.

If elected, Turner hopes to work with teachers, administrators, parents, and students to

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Puerto Rico in spotlight

By Kami-Leigh Agard
Onyx Staff

Puerto Rico's prominence in the national spotlight for 1999, has been increasingly pronounced because of three issues: President Clinton's pardon of Puerto Rican political prisoners, the US navy's bombings and target practices at Vieques, (a small island off the southeastern coast of Puerto Rico) and the on-going debate of whether the island should become an independent, a state or keep its status as a commonwealth.

Last Thursday, students and professors packed into room 444 in the Curry Student Center to participate in a forum on "Puerto Rico/US Relations." The panel included Dr. Amilcar Barreto, a political science professor at Northeastern; Dr. Alan West Duran, a recent arrival to NU in the Modern Languages Department; Dr. Ana Yolanda

Ramos from the Department of Anthropology and Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey and Dr. Felix "Felo" V. Matos Rodriguez, a history professor at NU. All the panelists gave a brief introduction, which led to the discussion.

"I was not always the conservative figure, you see before you," joked Duran. "During the 1980s, the FBI may have labeled me as a subversive. I was part of a revolutionary movement back in the 1980s. However, I dealt more with the information gathering aspect."

Duran was among the many Puerto Rican freedom fighters. "Some freedom fighters are always seen as somebody's terrorists," said Duran.

Rodriguez added, "there is a history of FBI harassment to members of Puerto Rican activist movements. These people felt that

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What's Inside...

Soul Catcher, page 3

He's hot, he's talented, and he's bringing a whole new sound to the music industry. Find out about the upcoming artist, Olu.

Freedom's Child, page 4

Life's hard, but it's even harder when you're an immigrant. Read about a young man who is currently being detained for possible deportation.

Best Man, page 7

Wedding bells have never rung like this. It's witty, it's sexy, and...you'll just have to read about it to find out more.

HBNN struts its stuff

By Jamila Hill
Onyx Staff

They were cute. All under four feet tall, and modeling fashions from The Children's Place in The Cambridgeside Galleria. The audience cooed, clapped, and cheered as these little models, cued from the choreographer standing behind the curtain, performed choreography to "Pretty Young Things." But these kids were only part of a larger production that kept the audience just as excited,

"No one sees the behind the scenes, it's a lot of hard work."

Phil Noel

just as attentive, and just as desirous of seeing more. "Fall in Love" fell into the approval of many. But what ended as a two-and-a-half hour fashion show, at John Hancock in Boston on Saturday, October 16th, took a lot of time, energy, and people to put together.

"When you plan it, you might think it will be easy, but when it gets down to it, it really isn't," said Phil Noel. "No one sees the behind the scenes, it's a lot of hard work," he said.

Phil Noel, a member of the Haitian Brothers Networking Nationally (HBNN). HBNN has 18 members, many of whom are former Northeastern students. HBNN, in collaboration with M'Andree Productions, organized "Fall 'N Love" as a sequel to their very first fashion show "Black Love."

"This is the second one we have done. The first one, "Black Love," was done in February," said Elie St. Brice, one of the program coordinators of "Fall 'N Love" and a member of HBNN. "We did the first one as a way to celebrate Black History month and with this one, we wanted to bring back the love, he said.

Try-outs for "Fall in Love" were held in June when the models were narrowed down from over 100 people to the 45 who participated in the fashion show. July and August, the models rehearsed at the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute. Then, beginning in September, practices were held twice a week, sometimes for long hours, until the show on October 1.

"It was hard coming from work, then coming here, and staying late," said Tieka Wilson, a Northeastern graduate who modeled

in the show. "It took a lot of dedication," she said.

Marie-Andree Joseph of M'Andree Productions, instructed the models, who ranged from professionals to amateurs. According to many of the models, the choreography of Joseph was part of what made "Fall 'N Love" stand out from other fashion shows.

"Our models are good but the choreography is off the hook," said Anthony Pitts who has been a model for four years.

"I really like the choreography that she (Joseph) does. I've never been in a show with steps," said Dave Edwards, a professional model. "Usually, I do straight forward modeling," he said.

Each scene was not only unique because of the choreography but the models also put a their own personality into their steps.

The good part was working with different types of people who have different styles," said Joseph.

During rehearsals, when models were working on one scene, others would practice their walk in the hallway. But at other times, models did not have anything else to do than to stand around.

"I've been modeling for three-and-a-half years now, but this is probably the most models that I've worked with," said Dave

Edwards. "There's just so many people that you get bored a lot, but she (Joseph) can't put her attention on everyone," he said.

Other things that made organizing the fashion show difficult at times were personality conflicts, people not always showing up to rehearsal, and not enough people handling the business aspect.

"For it to run as smoothly as possible, you need to break down the responsibilities like advertising, booking a location, and taking care of clothes," said Noel. "And then you have others act as floaters to help out when needed. Unfortunately, that didn't happen with this show," he said.

According to Noel, organizing the show was more difficult than they had anticipated. School and work prevented them from putting in as much time as they would have liked.

"There are a lot of things that come with putting on a show, that come with the territory," said Noel.

When all was completed, however, "Fall 'N Love" was a learning experience that people enjoyed.

"We have more knowledge that from the first show... more contact," said St. Brice.

"I learned a lot from the first show, but I really learned from this show," said Noel.

The Institute ?

By André Jean-Francois
Onyx Staff

News Analysis- As we enter the 21st century at Northeastern we see that numerous things have changed since the school's opening over one hundred years ago. Some of those changes include the size of main campus, enrollment, and the school's reputation. Among the new things happening, is the establishment of the campuses new look.

Last year the Krentzman Quad on Huntington Avenue was the front end of campus. As the new buildings are built, we learn that West Campus A, B, and C area will now become the front of the school. Northeastern is in the process of building new dorms and parking lots to accommodate the growing student body. With all the new construction and renovations occurring, there is one building that is forgotten. The one issue that needs to be taken care of is the re-renovation of the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute. The Institute is a place where NU students and community members can call a home away from home.

With all the construction around the Institute, a question lingers about the institute's fate. For years the administration along with building planning committees have said that the Institute would be renovated and reestablished so that it will go along with the other buildings on the main campus. Yet as the days, weeks, and eventually the years go by, nothing has happened.

Director of the Institute, Dean Lula Petty-Edwards, said that the building has been reviewed and the consensus is that it is in perfect condition compared to some of the other buildings that are falling under due to

their foundation. Petty also said that architects on the planning committee are working to help update the Institute, giving it a new futuristic look. However, for some reason the Institute's look still remains the same. The reason for this is because, the AAI continues to receive the NU shuffle from the administration and building planning committees.

Many students want to know what's going to happen to the Institute because does not look as if it fits with the new buildings along its path. There are rumors that the Institute will be relocated, remodeled, or even shut down. If the Institute is relocated where will it be placed? There isn't enough room to park cars on campus. Besides where would all the commuter students hang out during activities period? If it goes as far as getting rid of the Institute then this would affect all us, according to Janerra Williams the administrative secretary at the institute. "More students need to get involved not only in the AAI but also with other University activities and policies that will affect them," Williams said.

On November 19, 1999 at 8am at the AAI the building committee will announce the plans for the Institute as it relates with the new construction. The meeting will be held during the Strategic Planning Committee's (SPC) regular meeting for the Institute. Rick Johnson, one of the co-founders of the Institute, heads the SPC. Students need to find out more about what's happening with the Institute? Several of the faculty and students at the Institute feel that without student activism to keep the Institute where it is, it will soon no longer exist. Future plans for the Institute will be discussed in next month's issue of The Onyx.



Dukes' first client is former NU basketball star Lonnie Harrell, who starred at Northeastern for two seasons after transferring from Georgetown University. (Photo courtesy of Damon Dukes)

Dukes, from page 1

been difficult. He never heard from his agent after he was waived. He resurfaced in the USBL in 1998 and had another solid season, and he also met Dukes through a mutual friend. They immediately established a trust, which was important to Harrell after what had happened with his previous agent. The NBA lockout hurt Harrell's chances of getting a shot with an NBA team, but he did not quit. He went on to the IBA, where he had an All-Star season with the Rapid City Thrillers as the team's leading scorer (22 points per game, 40% three-point shooting).

After considering a couple of offers, Harrell signed a contract with the LaCrosse Bobcats of the CBA, coached by Boston Celtic great Dennis Johnson. But he may not be there for long, as the NBA beckons. At 6'7", he has ideal size for his position (shooting guard) and can shoot the ball very well, a

long-lost art among today's NBA guards. He has had workouts with the Milwaukee Bucks, New Jersey Nets and Washington Wizards in recent weeks.

Dukes speaks very highly of Harrell and knows that Lonnie has helped him. "I'm really blessed with Lonnie, because to work with a kid of this talent level is very rare." He also mentions that through Lonnie, he has been able to network more with athletes and get in contact with more people in the business.

This helps Dukes see just how much "the player makes the agent," a thought he keeps in mind during his work.

With the college basketball season approaching, Dukes is now busy looking at prospective clients for the upcoming year. With his desire to bring his own idea of what an agent must be to a player, Dukes has some good years ahead.

Join
The Onyx Informer

We meet every Tuesday at 6p.m. in
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Olu

Catcher of souls

Jamila Hill
Onyx Staff

The son of a black writer and white activist, Kevin "Olu" Artis traveled extensively with the Boys Choir of Harlem while growing up. Now 25, "Olu" has launched a solo career and is currently touring the U.S. promoting his debut album "Soul Catcher." The album features neo-soul sounds of R&B, jazz, and hip-hop. The Onyx Informer spoke to him recently.

ONYX: Is this your first tour as a solo artist and what has it been like so far?

OLU: This is my first official tour. I've spent the last few months doing a promotional tour but this is my first time out on the road and staying out. So far it seems to be going pretty well. Of course there are little technical problems but overall I'm happy with it.

ONYX: What are your musical influences?

OLU: For this particular project, there has been a certain school of music that I drew from, people like Jimmy Hendrix, Marvin Gaye, Donnie Hathaway, and Curtis Mayfield. Overall, my influences are everywhere, from people like Beethoven to Paul Robeson. My dad who is a writer also influences me. He turned me on to Ray Charles and Paul Robeson. The songs they sang were nice, but them singing them are what really made them real for me.

ONYX: Your music seems pessimistic, almost sorrowful. What are you drawing from when writing your lyrics?

OLU: If you look at the state of affairs in the world, it's not cheery. There are poor people, there are minorities, all experiencing hardships. Money doesn't matter when

you're black. That's why I might seem sorrowful or angry, because I am. I'm just a small person trying to fix the world. I see what I write and what I see isn't perfect.

ONYX: Where did you come up with the name for this album?

OLU: I read a lot of books about native spirituality on different continents. All cultures, before Christianity. If someone was sick, they had a way of pulling out the spirits that caused the illness. Each had an instrument to catch the spirits that caused illnesses. Native Americans called theirs dream catcher. I wanted to catch people's souls, so I called my album soul catcher.

ONYX: How did you become interested in music?

OLU: I've been interested in music pretty much from the beginning. When I was two, my father bought a small piano. He couldn't play and my mother could only play a little. I would climb up on the bench and start banging at it. My dad noticed that I would play the same tune everyday so he put me into piano lessons. I started studying piano when I was five. I began playing drums when I was six. Now I can play the piano, drums, bass,



Kevin

and little bit of the saxophone.

ONYX: Your music seems to have a jazz base. What are your feelings towards jazz and its influence on your music?

OLU: Thelonius Monk and Art Tatum are like my cousins. I'm totally influenced by jazz but it's hard to mix it into neo-soul music because jazz is about freedom of thought. Thelonius and Art were opposites but they were both just as beautiful. I can't play like any of them and I don't even think I want to. Nat King Cole's piano solos were a perfect combination of Tatum and Monk. A lot of people know him as a crooner but he was a lot more than that. You can't get as high as he got during that time without being great.

ONYX: Why do you think jazz receives so little media play?

OLU: It's out there but as far as the mainstream and the media, not really. It all really comes down to the haves and have-nots where the haves don't want the have-nots to know their culture.

ONYX: How did you become a member of the Boys Choir of Harlem and what was that experience like?

OLU: I was going to the Boys Club. We went there because there wasn't much else to do. Through the Boys Club, I got a scholarship to go to a music camp for the summer. I could read music and learned my parts very quickly. The director told my family and I about the Boys Choir and when I got back to New York, I auditioned and got in. I was in the training camp for a week and then the touring group. That experience was extremely educational. I was young and on tour with about 30 other young men. We went around the US and the world. I've been to places like Asia. I learned that you do what you've got to do. None of us were getting paid but it was about the experience. We had to work hard. I would practice three to four times a week after school. That experience was great. I felt what it was like to have people react to what you do and I liked it.

ONYX: Are you single?

OLU: I've been seeing someone off and on for a few years. She knows I'm on the road. I'm a pretty reasonable guy. I think some guys want to go out and just kick their verse. They're not about the art. They use their stardom as a vehicle to get what they want. I would like to think that I could get women even if I wasn't doing music. But for me, it's all about the music, the art. I just like to keep it simple. I'm quiet. I don't go out to clubs.

ONYX: Do you practice any particular religion?

OLU: I'm a spirit and I was born into the

world. I don't have a particular religion and I never will. I like to be nice to people without having to worry about getting struck down. Why can't people just be nice just to be nice? I like to love my people without fear of punishment.

ONYX: Many people have compared you to Maxwell. Do you think there are any similarities between you and Maxwell?

OLU: I don't sound like him. A lot of people compare me to Maxwell and D'Angelo because we don't do that "greasy" R&B. But I think I'm just angrier than they are. Every time I'm awake, I'm aware of the struggle. I want people to see that. It doesn't stop, my need to do something is with me daily.

ONYX: You use a lot of imagery in your songs. Did any writers influence you?

OLU: Yes, James Baldwin, W.E.B. DuBois, Langston Hughes, and lyricists like Sting had a way of wording things. I don't want to say too much or too little. I want to say things in a way that conjures up things in people's minds and make them think. But I think in order to really be visual, it helps if you have a vision to begin with. The problem is that many songs are just empty, just empty songs.

ONYX: Is there anything else you would like to share?

OLU: I just want to spread love and beauty constantly. To be nice to everyone, even if they curse me. I want to kiss their soul. There are too many people who are self-indulgent. My ultimate goal is to bring peace to warring nations. Whether I'll accomplish it or not I don't know. The UN needs more guys like me to spread serenity and love to lonely hearts. I need to make a living but I'm more interested in changing the culture.

Kenita McCloughlyn contributed to this article

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Freedom's Child

By Jamila Hill
Onyx Staff

The sun has not yet risen when they come to take you. Immigration and Naturalization Services and the local police, tell you that you will be deported. They take you to a federal prison miles away from your family. you wait for the decision as to whether you can stay or must leave. Ten months later, you are still waiting.

Nelson Pires, 23, of Uphams Corner is still waiting. Pires was one of the 19 Cape Verdeans taken during "Operation Safe Streets" in January of this year.

"Operations Safe Streets" was an immigration sweep of Cape Verdean youths in the Dorchester suspected of committing crimes or committed crimes in the past. It was a collaboration between INS, federal, state and local police forces. The operation was a revival of the Operation Ceasefire strategy that Boston used to break several youth gangs in their national crime fighting model. According to Fernanda, Pires' sister, he is among the four who still remain detained in INS custody. All the others have been released. The following are excerpts of a letter from him.

"...The real reason I'm here is cause the local police have a grudge with the Cape Verdean youth and they targeted us like we're the ones committing all of the crimes and violence.

After South Bay, I really did turn over new leaf. I was doing really well working and saving my money. Now I'm broke cause all my savings plus my parent's money has

gone towards my legal fees and supporting me in here. Just my legal fees are close to \$15,000 now.

This jail they got me in is really messed up too. I'm under federal custody, but they got INS detainees mixed in with county inmates. We get no special privileges. I only come out for four hours a day, they feed us portioned trays, just enough for you to live. They don't have any legal services or case-workers to help you out. They got two INS officers, who handle all INS cases in this place like 400 people, so they don't give any special attention to you. I have an INS deportation officer who I have never seen or met since I've been here.

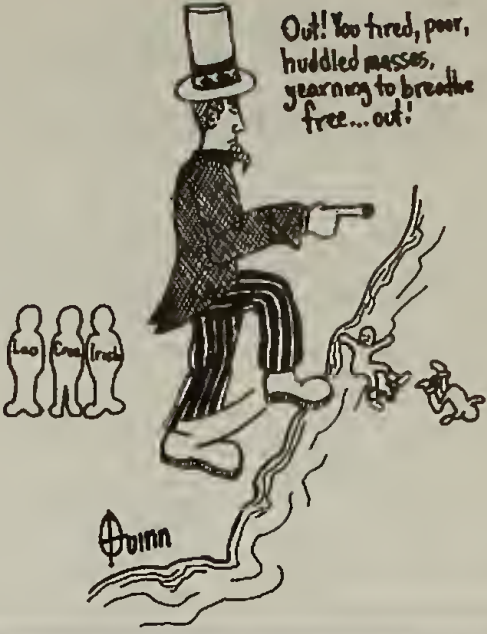
Buck when I was kind of leading two lives or just having a split personality I guess. I use to go to school and just try to get by and try to be cool, calm, and quiet, and have those set of friends. Then, I lived a hectic street life, wilding out there with my other friends and getting into all sorts of things. I would always try to keep my parents from knowing what I was doing, but they already knew or would eventually always find out.

I've been through a lot so far in my life. I'm not proud of everything but those experiences helped shape me to be the man I am today. I am much wiser, but I'm still learning from my mistakes and still suffering the consequences.

I miss my freedom and I want it back. This is the biggest fight of my life right now, trying to stay in the U.S. with my family. They are doing all they can for me."

Nelson Pires is still detained in a Federal Prison in Manchester, New Hampshire. He has been there for 10 months and is still unsure if he will be deported or released. He's still awaiting a removal hearing to determine his future. The Onyx Informer will continue to update his story, as more information becomes available.

**It only take 5 finger
to pick up The Onyx!**



HISTORY OF DEPORTATION POLICIES IN IMMIGRATION LAW

1888 First act since 1798 providing for expulsion of aliens.

1891 Established the Bureau of Immigration under the Treasury Department to federally administer all immigration laws.

1950 Increased grounds for exclusion and deportation of subversives. Required all aliens to report their addresses annually.

1990 Among other changes of immigration legislation were revisions on all grounds for exclusion and

deportation, significantly rewriting the political and ideological grounds and repealing some grounds for exclusion.

1996 The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IRIRA) was passed. They expanded the number of crimes at a person could be deported or to include minor drug offenses, shoplifting, and any other convictions requiring a sentence of a year or longer, regardless of if the sentence was suspended or actually served.

About Cape Verde...

Cape Verde is a group of ten islands off the west coast of Africa. Cape Verdeans have been immigrating to the United States since before the U.S. Civil War. There are now approximately 400,000 Cape Verdeans living in Massachusetts. About

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improve the Boston Public School system, which currently ranks second to last in Massachusetts. He also wants to continue the fight for affordable housing by working to develop a better rent control system and implementing condominium conversion regulations.

Lithcut, 37, and on leave from a position as director of Youth Services and Recreation for the City of Boston, is a graduate of Morgan State University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work from Boston University.

He calls himself the "independent voice for the community" and Lithcut wants to work with experts and developers to set up a plan to get affordable housing back into the city. He would also like to see environmentally sound train service restored to Washington Street in Roxbury.

"I will give a commitment, a dedication, and put my heart into every issue that this community wants me to work on," said Lithcut. "I'm going to be a pitbull for my community." Lithcut believes Turner is radical and too protest-oriented. "It's time for new leadership. We don't need to move back 30 years."

Turner believes that Lithcut lacks the experience working with and building coalitions that is so important for the survival of the community. It will be settled November 2, election day.

What about Gareth?

After three terms of advocating constituent

involvement, criticism from community leaders on his efforts, and bickering with colleagues, Boston City Councilor Gareth Saunders is wrapping up his tenure with an uncertain look at the future and a positive outlook on the past.

Sighting a need for a career change, Saunders announced in June that he would not run for reelection in District 7, which includes Roxbury, part of Dorchester, and small portions of the Fenway and the South End.

Saunders, one of only two black councilors on the 13-member City Council, said that he has no regrets in his decision to enter the private sector. "My career clock told me it was time to move on," said Saunders.

Saunders said that he wants to stay in the Boston area and work as an advocate, appointee, or consultant.

During his six years in office, Saunders implemented a truancy citation act to increase student attendance in class. He also encouraged Roxbury constituents, notorious for a lack of interest in city politics, to engage in hearings on issues including information technology, public health, and housing. "It's a critical time District 7 is going through," said Saunders. "Citizens should play a big role in policy and development decisions."

Janarth Crawford, community activist and former operations manager for Saunders, is pleased with Saunders' decision not to run for

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All opinion pieces and letters must be 250 words, typed, and single-spaced. They must be submitted by the third Tuesday of every month. All submissions must include name, major, email and phone number.

The Onyx Informer reserves the right to edit all submissions for content, size, and clarity. No submissions will be returned.

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EDITORIAL

City Council Race Litthcut versus Turner

The Onyx Informer supports Tracy Litthcut in his quest to replace Gareth Saunders as city councilor for District Seven. District Seven includes Roxbury and Northeastern University. Northeastern will have to work hand in hand with the person elected, to ensure that NU's housing and expansion needs are met and communities concerns are addressed.

Litthcut, as Director of Youth Services for the City of Boston, is recognized as an expert on youth violence prevention. He also helped to lead a fight to reduce crime to a 30 year low in Boston by partnering with local clergy, community groups, the Boston Police Department and elected officials.

As the millennium approaches, Roxbury is entering a critical period. We believe Mr. Litthcut is the candidate to lead us through this period.

We're living in a global economy that exists and thrives because of the partnerships we forge. We are aware of the concerns that Mr. Litthcut is too much of a political insider, but this concern is actually a positive attribute for us.

We believe that because of his political connections, Litthcut will be able to build alliances that will benefit the Roxbury community. Boston is experiencing a boom in development and Roxbury will only receive its share of the pie through partnerships formed with

other members of the city council, city officials and the mayor. We do not need a leader that will alienate the people needed to provide services this community desperately needs.

Chuck Turner, also running for the city councilor position, is a valued institution in the community. His record of championing the causes of Roxbury residents and battling the city for this district, is highly commendable and appreciated. Some of his many battles include: the proposed eight-lane highway through Boston neighborhoods and his fight to establish laws requiring contractors to hire workers of all races and genders in the city of Boston. Turner also developed the Greater Roxbury Workers Association.

Turners' activism is legendary but it draws some concerns for us. Our concern is that his battles with the city have left many enemies in its wake. We fear that his ability to help the community will be hampered by the fact that city officials he has alienated will not want to work with him.

This would be detrimental to a community that already has political scars.

Litthcut, unlike Turner, does not carry all those baggage's.

Jamila Hill
and Kerrita McLaughlyn
Co-Editors
The Onyx Informer

Voice your opinion!

Send letters to The Onyx Informer
430 Curry Student Center
Boston, MA 02115

Speaking Out

Racial categorization preserves unity

The river of culture flows like time. It's ever-changing current pervades every individual's being. Culture is an aggregate of values and behavioral preferences that make up a people's life style and approach to activities of daily life. Some of the most profound manifestations of culture are apparent in everyday life. The way an individual talks, walks, dresses, names themselves, and/or communicates. Culture is deeper than surface, it is an intangible glue, sealing in impenetrable bonds.

'Black' is an adjective that (in America) acts as an umbrella to

other distinguished adjectives, such as Haitian, Jamaican, Nigerian, etc. Much like the adjective Latino/Hispanic serves as a blanket to such identifications as Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban, etc. Within these two large identi-

Many Haitians weren't 'Black' until they came to America. Does 'culture become lost in these two arbitrary 'labels'? Or do these labels arouse concord among individuals by focusing on similarities rather than differences?

A 'Black' sophomore stated that, "the dilation of culture is an individual thing, whether or not one preserves it or not once they come to America is their choice, but I definitely believe that the categorization preserves unity in the fragile 'Black/Latino communities at Northeastern."

Sometimes a culture's uniqueness is sacrificed for the sake of a simple identification.

fications many cultures exists. Sometimes a culture's uniqueness is sacrificed for the sake of a simple identification.

Octavia Ramsey is a sophomore English major.

The Land of Immigrants

No nation has ever attempted to incorporate more than 26 million newcomers into its society. By historical standards, the number of immigrants in the U.S. is unprecedented. Even at its peak in the early 20th century, the number of immigrants was only about half of what it is today. According to a study by the Center for Immigration Studies, immigrants represent 42% of the 20.4 million increases in the total U.S. population since 1990. The annual level of immigration has risen steadily from 300,000 in the 1960s to 900,000 in the 1990s.

There is a sense that immigrants do not want to be incorporated into the American mainstream. For those who may want to become part of this great melting pot, assimilation is near impossible. Immigrant advocacy groups make the task of integration difficult by pressing for entitlements for public education and services in native languages, access to voting rights in local elections (even before naturalization), affirmative action preference in employment and higher education, and a host of other social programs and benefits.

The increased rate of growth in the immigrant population and their

inability to assimilate has led many to question and even resent America's "willingness" to accept people from other countries onto its soil. According to a December 1998 survey by the Wall Street Journal and NBC News, 72% of Americans felt that "immigrants should not increase because it will cost U.S. jobs and increase unemployment." Anti-immigration lobbyists feel that immigrants have such a profound effect on population growth in America that environmental problems and large increases in taxes will plague American society.

In an attempt to reduce the number of immigrants entering and living in this country, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IRIRA) was passed. Under the IRIRA, minor drug offenses, some cases of drunk driving, shoplifting, and any other convictions requiring a sentence of a year or longer, regardless whether the sentence was suspended or actually served, require deportation. With the passing of this law, almost 33,000 immigrants were convicted for criminal or narcotics violations and deported.

The law is so rigid, that immi-

grants, regardless of how long they have been here, can be deported because of a petty crime. The inhumanity of it all stems from families being torn apart and people being tossed unto unfamiliar lands at the whim of the government, reminiscent of another era ("error"), in this "land of the free."

For a country that is historically and internationally known for being a "land of immigrants," it is interesting to see how quickly its

The inhumanity of it all stems from families being torn apart and people being tossed unto unfamiliar lands at the whim of the government, reminiscent of another era ("error"), in this "land of the free."

law-makers are willing to blame immigration for hypothesized problems. If this country continues at the rate it is going, this once "immigrant-friendly" land will become the world's most unwelcome place for people of other nations.

Jamila Hill is a senior journalism major.

What's Happening?

MONDAYS

ONGOING

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/
Transgender Support Group
Time: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
Currently interviewing, need
pre-group hour interview
Contact: Gini Goulet Counseling Center: Call 373-2142

TUESDAYS

ONGOING

Relationship/Self Esteem
Time: 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Currently interviewing, need
pre-group 1/2 hour interview
Contact: Ed Hattauer & Cory Kerens at the Counseling Center 373-2142

WEDNESDAYS

November 3rd

Kappa Alpha Psi featuring
musicians from Berklee
College of Music presents "A
Tribute to Black Musicians
and Poets"
Where: John D. O'Bryant
African American Institute.
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Admission is FREE!

President's Column

Ibiere Seck
Northeastern Black Student Association

For those of you who have been here longer than 4 weeks, and have walked past the John D O'Bryant African American Institute, you've probably noticed that things are a little different on that side of campus.

I'm not referring to the 13-story penthouse called West Campus. I'm talking about the Institute. It's alive. Rumor has it that students of the African Diaspora are taking notice and advantage of its many resources.

There was a time when the Institute was virtually empty during activities period and there were freshmen on campus who didn't even know where it was located. Now, with its new-state-of-the-art computer lab and laser-jet color printer, there seems to be a lot more traffic.

Students are taking advantage of the equipment and showing love to the Cabral Center. In between classes the pool and ping-pong tables are in constant use, as is the music in that the Unity Store plays. Now that the word is getting around that there is an Institute and it is in use, we all need to remember that the Institute has much more to offer than computers, games and music.

Many of us don't know that the "Tute" has a third floor that is filled with books and information about us. This fall the participation in the "Tute" is on the upswing but the Library needs a boost. Take advantage of this resource. End the traditional miseducation of the people of the African Diaspora. Seek knowledge and gain a better understanding of yourself. The Institute belongs to all students of African origin so embrace, celebrate and love your home. Peace

The Presidents column is a new feature in the Onyx. Every month, the Presidents of two minority student organizations on campus will be asked to submit a column. Columns must be 200 words or less. The President is free to choose whatever subject matter they would like to discuss. The Onyx reserves the right to edit all submissions. Organizations may only submit one column. If you are the President of an organization and you would like to submit a column for an issue (our next issue is November), please call us at 373-2250 before you write, it to let us know. All submissions are due the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

Battle, from page 5

relection. "I think it opens up a new arena for new people who can stand up against the establishment, and stand up for the black people of Roxbury," said Crawford. "He had high intentions, but a weak follow through and shallow philosophy."

Saunders admits that he had difficulty staying on track on times. "A lesson that I learned (as city councilor) is that it is hard to have a clear focus with your agenda," he said. "Trying to stay on course is difficult because there are so many demands for your time."

Both Turner and Litteut also weighed in with their opinion on Saunders. Turner was pleased with Saunders's vision and accomplishments, while Litteut said that Saunders was often nowhere to be found when resources were available.

"I was very disappointed that I was sitting at tables with resources and opportunities for our district and Gareth was never at that table," said Litteut.

Despite the critics Saunders remains proud of his tenure. "No one controlled me," said Saunders. "I listened to constituents, myself, and God."

Black Arts returns to NU

By Kami-Leigh Agard
Onyx Staff

Did you know that in the 1970s, a period when Black student activism was at its greatest, with the birth of organizations such as The Onyx Informer (1972,) there was also a renowned black student theater movement on campus called NUNIA?

The group's name is not an acronym but its origin is based on Northeastern University and the word NIA. Little information was available on the group and its activities on campus. The group's activities coincided with the brief tenure of famed playwright and poet Ntozake Shange's, who served as director of the John D. Cabral African American Institute in the early 70's.

Shange is an acclaimed playwright whose many works include "When Colored Girls Commit Suicide when the Rainbow isn't Enough."

Ed Bullins, a Northeastern theater professor, said to be one of the fathers of the Black theater movement in the United States, and author of over 100 plays, (including A Son



NUNIA members from l to r: Troy Botts, Angela Scott, Ibiere Seck, Katrina Braxton, Nikole Harrison, kneeling. Professor Ed Bullins. (Photo Credit: Christine Dela Cueva, Onyx Staff).

Come Home and In the Wine Time) is attempting to develop a multicultural theater group on campus.

"At this theater group, students of color can develop their acting, playwrighting and eventually develop full play productions."

Bullins said. When asked if NUNIA was being reborn, he said, "I want to show theatrical diversity at Northeastern. I just revived the old NUNIA's name."

NUNIA meets every Monday and Thursday at 7:30pm in the African American Institute.

Latinos in college?

By Kafui Tsaku
Onyx Staff

There have been numerous reports in the media, that in the year 2000, Hispanics will be the majority among all ethnic groups in the United States. However, according to the Associated Press, the number attending and graduating from college, remains alarmingly low.

A study conducted by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), producers of the Scho-

lastic Aptitude Test (SAT), reported that only 22 percent of Hispanics in the 18-24 age group attend college. However, Linda Delgado, Director of the Latino Student Cultural Center (LSCC) at Northeastern said, "I do not believe that this figure is accurate because from a Northeastern standpoint, many Latino students do not necessarily drop out of college. Some get absorbed by their co-op jobs and others switch schools because they can no longer afford Northeastern."

"There is another side that this ambiguous figure does not reflect. Because of their low socioeconomic status in the US, many Latino youth do not believe college is even an option," said Kami-Leigh Agard, a senior Journalism major at NU currently taking the course, Latino Politics, with Amilear Barreto, a political science professor at NU.

The study's author, Anthony Carnevale, also said that 55 percent of Latino eighth-graders expect to go to college, compared with 64 percent of Blacks, 72 percent of Asians, and 68 percent of non-Hispanic whites.

See Latinos, page 7

Puerto Rico, from page 1

they were involved in independence movements not terrorists groups."

Barreto spoke about his grandfather who lived in Lajas, a town he described as the "cradle of the PR nationalist movement." "The Puerto Rican police kept tabs on him (his grandfather). In his subversive file there were dates of days he met and talked with certain people. Informants were paid for reports."

Barreto asked why Puerto Rican nationalists were in American jails. He responded, "the island is an unincorporated territory. It would be nothing for Congress to sell Puerto Rico to Japan, for example. Congress could do anything without asking for consent."

This is a major issue of concern for many Puerto Ricans - their status as a "colony" or commonwealth to the US. "The proposal to elevate PR to a state has been taken somewhat seriously," Barreto said, "however, for all the rallies in Washington and activities by nationalists, it is still a commonwealth."

Puerto Rico is a territory of the US. It has been since the Spanish-American War in 1898. In 1917 during WWI, Congress made all Puerto Ricans citizens of the US. Puerto Ricans can travel freely to the US. However, they can not vote in federal elections if they live on the island. They can vote in these federal elections only when they are residents of the US mainland.

Since the island is a commonwealth of the US, the government has the right to put military bases to use as target practice on the island. On July 4th, more than 50,000 Puerto Ricans of various political ideologies marched to protest the US Navy practice of staging war games in the nearby-island country of Vieques.

"Although the navy has used Vieques for target practice since the 1950s, the accident

last April in which David S. Rodriguez died and four other civilians were injured as a result of a misfire by an F-18 fighter, galvanized public support to repudiate the Navy's presence in the island," said Rodriguez.

"The belief that Congress is condoning the Navy's actions because the bombings are affecting Puerto Ricans, not "regular" American citizens, is being held by many Puerto Ricans, regardless of political ideology," said Barreto.

One student at the forum asked, "What is the difference between what the military is doing in Vieques, than what they are doing in Utah and New Mexico?"

Barreto answered, "Vieques is a very small island off the coast of Puerto Rico. It has a dense population of 8,000 people. Military experiments in Utah and New Mexico are being conducted in large expanses of open land, where there are no people for miles. Hence, most people won't be affected."

Rodriguez said, "the island's water supply has been contaminated by the Navy's shelling practices and by the storage of dangerous chemicals. The fear of nuclear debris is also in the mind of many Viequesians. Health indicators are also a source of concern. Vieques, not surprisingly, ranks as the country with the highest cancer rate in Puerto Rico."

Constance Rose, professor of Modern Languages at NU, remarked, "The government's pledge to police the world and make it safe for all inhabitants would work if they stop bombing Vieques."

According to Rodriguez, one can not question Puerto Ricans' willingness to contribute their fair share to the US National defense. He said that since 1917, when Puerto Ricans were granted US citizenship, more than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have served in the military. The US Armed Forces also occupy 72

thousand acres of land in Puerto Rico.

"Puerto Ricans are united on this issue: the use of Vieques are target practice for the US military. We believe that the US Navy has to stop its military exercises in Vieques. The people of the Vieques have the right to live without the fear of military accidents, environmental hazards and perpetual poverty," said Rodriguez.

The first lady's decision to run for Senator Patrick Moynihan's seat in New York has charged the political atmosphere for Puerto Ricans. The Puerto Rican vote could make or break Hillary Clinton's success in obtaining a senate seat in New York, a state where Puerto Ricans are the largest Latino ethnic enclave, especially in New York City. According to Barreto, there are more Puerto Ricans in New York City than in San Juan, PR.

"For a democrat to win, you have to carry New York City. Upstate New York is extremely hostile towards democrats as they are extremely conservative," said Barreto. "Hillary needs those 1.8 million Puerto Rican votes."

"Her first support, then as an after thought, objection to President Clinton's pardon of Puerto Rican political prisoners is not going to exactly win the New York City Puerto Ricans over," he added. Barreto said that President Clinton is then faced with the dilemma-should he pull the navy out of Vieques, and help his wife's campaign, but simultaneously make the Pentagon very angry.

The International Scholars Forum ended with this discussion and Q/A's from the audience. It was hosted by the Center for Experiential Education and Academic Advising (CEA). The co-sponsors included the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), the International Affairs Program, the departments of Political Science and History, and the Latino, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program (LLACS).

The Best Man

By Alitheia Casimir
Onyx Staff

"It's funny how you can see reflections of your own life and experiences happen right before your eyes. 'The Best Man' and its cast mirrored the joys, fidelities, and sorrows embedded in Black friendships. It is truly a remarkable movie that I will definitely see again," said Elaine Washington, a sophomore finance major immediately after seeing the screening of *The Best Man* starring Nia Long and Taye Diggs.

The movie's plot was intertwined with compassion, anger, love, hormones, and understanding in the best way possible. Its story line deals with real life issues using real life characteristics without portraying the stereotypical real life negativity often used in Black films.

"This is a film that projects positive Black people as that: people...not 'yo, I got to stick this cat up to eat.' It is a very down-to-earth movie that I can see in reality," said Treasure Neal, sophomore animation art major.

Without giving away the entire story line of this movie, the plot is best summarized as unfinished business that becomes settled. Six friends from Undergraduate College are



reunited at the coming together of a wedding celebration. Through all the emotions that are conveyed in the film, many things come out about what happened then and what's yet to come. You'll laugh, cry, and most importantly relate to the film.

"The Best Man" is one of the best Black films I

have seen this year. It is about time we can see a film that illustrates that BLACK LOVE is still strong," said Erika Smith, a junior Behavioral Neuroscience major. Many others shared her sentiments.

With a realization that life is everyone's first time at experiencing things only talked about, it is comforting to feel that we're not the only ones that make mistakes and through the strengths of the friendships we attain, we are made into stronger people.

It was my personal benefit to view this film in a surrounding of people that, like myself, could see themselves playing at least one role in one scene of this movie. My suggestion to you is to watch this movie with an open mind in order to feel how it relates to you.

"This movie made me realize that I am not alone when it comes to dealing with how men sometimes don't pay enough attention to their women," said Candice Shaw, sophomore, Business Management major.

In contrast, Jose Masso, also a sophomore, Business major said, "when I saw this movie, I saw that women have the capability of being just as 'wrong' as men and there's a flip side to every coin."

The Best Man gets a positive review. This movie did its job and did it well. After leaving the movie theater, save the ticket stub because this is one to remember...not to mention the sound track.

TbT, from page 8

Track 9: "New World Water" is one of the best joints on here, conceptwise and beatwise (good lookin' Ju Ju from the Beatnuts). It's a track making an analogy between the new world order and water. I can't say enough about it. Mos is definitely at his best on this one. This makes me proud to say he's my favorite of the Blackstar team (no disrespect to my man Kweli who's mad nice too). Everything is perfect on this track.

Track 10: I'm not really feelin' "Rock n Roll" in both senses (the song and the music style). He's singin'/rhymin' again, but this time about how rock and roll was really started by us. The concept and the way it was put together is phat but it's not my type of track. All I can say is that there's a rock and roll for-real part at the end. Ok, next track.

Track 11: The new classic teamup of Blackstar is reunited. Ayatollah from track 4 drops another classic, jeep thumpin' beat. Damn, I wish I could stop boppin' my head so I can write that the name of the track is "Know That". Both of their rhymes are ill. If you couldn't already tell, I'm really feelin' this. Definitely one of my favorite tracks. I wanna know where Hi-Tek was at on the beats for this album.

Track 12: "Climb" is another singin' track. It's cool wit me this time cause he's wit Vinia Mojica, (jazzy, hip hop guest on a lot of albums, on the low. She's beautiful in every way) It starts out with them singing about

how black people used to get treated in the slave days and nowadays. Another nice track because of the concept but not a stereo bumper. This is a track you listen to going to sleep. It has a sneaky beat that comes in the middle of the song that I liked though.

Track 13: His dedication to his borough, "Brooklyn". It has 3 beats and three parts. The first is old Brooklyn tunes being played back while he represents where he from. The next part is a phat rhyme over a phat beat. This is for the real Bk/N Y heads. The last part is him rhymin' over the "Who Shot Ya" beat. I think this is his Biggie, rest in peace tribute. A phat concept and two phat beats. "Where Brooklyn At?"

Track 14: "Habitat" has my second favorite beat on this album. Only because Premo is two tracks away. This is a classic beat yo, don't sleep. Some cat named "Etch-a-Sketch" did it. He's one of my favorite producers now (nah, I'm playin'). Lots of different elements, a flute (my favorite part), drums to kill your speakers and other sh*t that you gonna have to have the album to find out about. My second favorite track, sneakin' up on my #1 on the low.

Track 15: Appropriately titled "Mr. Nigga" Q-tip from the Tribe gives his voice to the hook. Mos rhymes about how minorities get no respect in the world. I kept saying, "Damn, that's true". It's not racist, it's just tellin' the realness that's going on nowadays. This is some real sh*t. Everybody needs to listen

to this. Even the beat is universal so everyone will like it and listen. He's on a mission and I'm wit him.

Track 16: Damn yo, I can tell a Premo track from the first few seconds. "Mathematics" is my favorite track cause of DJ Premier and the math concept. He rhymes about statistics and how numbers should be recognized a little more. Numbers are the foundation of gaining knowledge, along with experience. The beat is sick as Premo always creates. He uses a guitar or some string instrument to perfection while scratchin' Ghostface from the Wu (where else), Fat Joe, and even Erika Badu. He's by far the illest cat out there. Another perfect track. I can't front though, it seemed a little too conceptual for a usual Premo track, but as long as it's phat, I don't give a F***.

Track 17: The last track is a beat created by Mos Def and a cat named 88 keys. It's just a soft tune to listen to cause this is the end of the album. An ear treat. What will I rate it?

I gave the Mos Def a \$12.99 out of my pocket. It's good overall but he lost 2 dollars because of the international singing effect. It's phat for all the real hip-hopppers with an imagination out there. For my hardcore cats, it's aight but worth gettin' cause of the phat tracks on it. Look out for Pharoahe Monch, Lost Boyz (Freaky Tah R.I.P.) and Screwball (hardcore) later this month.

Walking the dog

By Michael Reed
Onyx Staff

Walter Mosley a 47 year-old ex-computer programmer, turned writer and poet, is back again with a new novel called "Walking the Dog".

Over 100 people came to hear Mosley read excerpts from his new novel during a book signing, sponsored by The Boston Globe, on October 18th at the Boston Public Library. The predominantly black audience was a mixture of old fans and people who had never followed Mosley's work before his books were turned into movies.

"I haven't read any of his books but I'm going to buy 'Walking the Dog.' I got into Mosley when I saw 'Devil in a Blue Dress' and 'Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned,'" said Shawn, an audience member who did not want to give his last name.

In "Walking the Dog" we are reintroduced to Socrates Forlow, the character who won the hearts of many in "Always outnumbered, Always outgunned", which was recently made into a movie for television.

Despite his movie appearing on television, Mosley has strong views about the state of television today. "Television is garbage! No one show's positive images on television," Mosley said.

Mosley said that he wrote the sequel, "Walking the Dog," to show how black people solve the problems of everyday life. With sex, drug, crime and unemployment plaguing the neighborhood that Socrates calls home he once again calls for help. Can he survive his own life hurdles and save the neighborhood? The novel is where you will find your answer. Most of the audience loved what they heard and read so far.

"I like the characters, I like its visual effects. When you read his books it makes it surreal. Most of his books are powerful," said Carol, an audience member who like others interviewed, did not give her last name.

Mosley, a former California native turned New Yorker, believes that "putting in the work" will bring rewards. Mosley admits that he was turned down several times before he got published.

"Everyone gets published if they stick with it," Mosley said. "You have to write everyday to be a good writer."

When asked if there was any book he's written that he would like to see taught in schools he said "Always outnumbered, Always outgunned."

"I believe that (Always) should be taught in high school, because it talks about sex, drugs, money and the plight of a black man trying to survive in America," he said.

His uncle and father who were great storytellers influenced Mosley, he said. Mosley's next book, due out next year, is called "Man in the Basement." It's about a Caucasian man who allows himself to be locked up in the basement of an African-American man.

With another book in store and various movie projects, Mosley is arguably one of the hardest working writers out there. Walking the Dog is now in stores, and is worth picking up.

Latinos, from page 6

Northeastern University's Office of Institutional Research reported that as of fall 1998, of the 11,494 undergraduate students at NU, only 491 or 4.3 percent are Hispanic American. African American undergraduates number 727 or 6.3 percent, Asian Americans number 952 or 8.3 percent and white Americans number 9,294 or 80.9 percent.

The ETS study also reported that of those Hispanic students, who do go to college, 64 percent attend community colleges or less competitive universities. "This statistic infers that either many Latino youth believe that they can not aspire to an accredited private university or they simply can not afford private universities sporting exorbitant tuition fees," Agard said.

What's happening, continued from page 5

ONGOING

Surviving Family Problems, Building Self-Esteem
Time: 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

Currently interviewing, need pre-group interview
Contact: Gini Goulet at the Counseling Center
373-2142

THURSDAYS

November 4th

Latino Student Cultural Center is hosting a toy drive that runs through December 9th. To donate a toy or for more information contact LASO @ 373-3087.

November 18

Volunteer Fair - A Time for Giving
Time: 11:45 - 1:30 p.m. in the Indoor Quad, Curry

Student Center

Contact: Student Activities @ 373-2642 or TTY 373-4747

ONGOING

Women's Body Image Support Group

Time: 12:00 to 1:15 p.m.

Currently interviewing, need pre-group interview
Contact: Cory Kerens at the Counseling Center
373-2142

Graduate Student Support Group

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Currently interviewing, need pre-group interview
Contact: Angela Londono-McConnell at the Counseling Center 373-2142

Hip-Hop Track By Track



Maurice "Moe" Archer
Onyx Staff

Yo, what's da deal y'all? Y'all ready for another phat album? A'ight then, let's go. This month I'm f*ckin wit the new Mos Def album titled "Black on Both Sides." Mos, if you don't know him already is from Brooklyn, NY but he's an international cat. He travels all over the world to do his music thing. You have to know this cause his album is made for a wide range of people. He tries to make good music for people everywhere. He's mostly Brooklyn but some the tracks are on another level that I think only cats in other countries can feel. The album is phat though, you just got to have an open mind to new sh*t.

I also got to chill wit the Terror Squad last weekend (good lookin Junior) so we got a short interview wit Fat Joe and dem. Oh, before I forget, shout to my girl (not girlfriend for you sh*t talkers) Keesha for taking the picture that's blessin the Track by Track's new look. Good lookin!

Another new thing this month that will be a new part of the T.b.T is other album reviews. These will be short but to the point reviews of other albums that came out in

ALBUM REVIEW

Mos Def's *Black on Both Sides*

the same time period as the main album. A'ight enough a this explaining, my ni%%a Mos Def wanna spread some love for a change (Native Tongues represent.)

Track 1: The intro is called "Fear Not of Man". It's just him talking about the changes going on in life and appreciating our peoples. He's trying to let cats know how he thinks people should approach life. The second half, he rhymes for about 30 seconds over this bell-filled, jungle sounding beat. It sounds like a chant. I wasn't feelin it that much but he's on some love sh*t, so it's cool. It sounds a'ight.

Track 2: His first song is his tribute to "Hip-Hop." The beat comes in ill after the intro. Diamond D scratches all over the hook, "Hip, hip, hip hip, hi hi hip hop." Of course he's rhyming about hip hop and the state he feels it's in right now. Diamond laces the beat. This is for the hardcore beat lovers and Mos Def fans. This was a good way to start his album off.

Track 3: This track is all about "Love". I feel him on the concept but it's a little too soft for me. It's a nice song but I like beats and tracks to bop my head to, and this one is the joint you play at your family reunion. It's good, don't get me wrong. I just wasn't in the mood to listen to it every time I heard it. Maybe I should put this on my "girl comin' over" tape. I'm sayin, he's singin on it, why not.

Track 4: This is a classic Mos track. "Ms. Fat

Booty" has the illest beat so far. It's a phat story tellin about how he meets this girl in a club. Whoever produced this (a cat named Ayatollah from the 25 11 life crew) is trying to become my favorite producer. The beat is crazy and your head won't stop going up and down. The way he tells the story is ill. One of my favorite joints on the album. You might want to set the cd player (if you got one) to repeat.

Track 5: I think Mos got some beef. He's rhyming like somebody got on his nerves or some sh*t. He titles it "Speed Law" cause he's saying that somebody is living their life too fast. He's deep, I like that. The beat is a'ight. An average phat track but listen for the beef in his lyrics. That makes the song a little more interesting.

Track 6: You know Busta had to represent for the world and love. This is a party track I would like at the club. They both rhyming hard like they usually do and the beat is some sick, bouncin', jeep sh*t. I'm feeling this and I'm surprised. I never thought I could like a party track but they both im-

pressed me. "What a gwon?" says Busta as Mos chants (where you at) "Bus-a-Bus...". This joint is phat. I know I'll hear it comin out of your speakers soon enough.

Track 7: Ali Shaheed from the former (damn, it hurts to say that) Tribe Called Quest, does a beat for Mos to tell you how you get "Got" in NYC. It even sounds like a Tribe beat. I like that though. This song is full of electric relaxation (for my real tribe fans).

Track 8: Here is the first track in which he's on another level to me. It's nice cause "Umi Says" has some jazz in the background to a fast beat, but he's singing again. I liked when he sang on other songs before this album cause they were short parts, but this is a little too much for me. Again, it's nice cause he singing about black people being free and lovin one another. There's nothing wrong with that, matter of fact we should be doing this more. As for it being hot to bump in a stereo though, I would change tapes or cd's by now.

See TbT page 7

Terror Squad, the interview

A'ight, Joe and the Terror Squad had a little to say for the Boston hip-hop fans. Sorry, Pun wasn't there, but everybody else was cool.

Moe: "Who's beats do y'all like representin on the most?"

Triple Seis: "We f*ck wit the cats that's on this album, basically. We keep our shit in the fam mostly."

Moe: "To all of y'all, this album seemed kind of tense. Was there some kind of beef that influenced it?"

Terror Squad: "Nah man, it's all love. There ain't no beef at all."

Moe: "What is in the works for the T.S. in the future?"

Tony Sunshine: "I'm in the R&B cat. I'm in the joint with Pun, singin. I sing about the same things they rhyme about. Me and Pun got a colabo joint comin' out."

Triple Seis, Armageddon: "We all comin out wit solo joints. We gonna do colabo albums

with each other too. We trying to do it all." **Moe:** "What are y'all doin to give back to your communities?"

Triple Seis: "We support sports events around the way and we give money to schools that need it. Mad sh*t."

Moe: "Last question, this is for Joe. How is it like workin' with DJ Premier (no disrespect to Armageddon and the rest of your beatmakers)? I just have to know."

Fat Joe: "He's mad cool. Matter of fact, I was wit Premo the other day."

I'd like to say good looking out to the whole T.S. for allowing us to interview them on their small tour of Boston. They was just regular cats like people you see everyday. They was mad cool. I'd just like to say that there was like 3 groupies following these cats in their bus around Boston the whole time. These cats are mad funny. Keep bumpin them trees T.S.

half the album is phat. It was a rushed project though. You can tell. It's for the everyday, buy anything with a famous name on it cat. **Inspectah Deck:** "Uncontrolled Substance" \$13.99

This sh*t is crazy. It's all I expected from Deck. Him, Ghost and the GZA are my favorite Wu members. The beats are sick, the lyrics are ridiculous and he even has little freestyle skits. There were like two tracks that were only a'ight, but there's 17 tracks in total so I was straight wit 15 bangin' a\$\$ tracks. Definitely worth the doe. Pick it up if you don't already got it.


Terror Squad: "The Album" \$11.99

Most of the tracks are phat but there's like 3 or 4 that I couldn't feel. The beats are tight but all of the songs weren't n'y tastic. Read the interview.



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Lost Boyz: "LB IV Life" \$12.99
For all the LB fans and Queens heads, this sh*t is phat. Worth every penny. Not even cause they lost someone, but because the beats are phat, typical LB beats. Cheeks is at his best (up there with the first album). It hurts to hear Tah in the background of the tracks though.

Methodman/Redman: "Blackout" \$8.99
I bought this and I wanted to return it like an hour later. This is totally not what I expected. It's cool that they just buggin out, havin fun, but stick to the. Don't get it wrong,